(b) Although there has been progressive improvement in the coverage of urban population with water supply and sanitation facilities, there is substantial need for further improvement in the coverage both in terms of quantity and quality. The 10th Plan document (2002-07) has projected a requirement of Rs. 53,719.60 crore for urban water supply and sanitation, whereas the actual availability of resources for the sector would be much less. In view of budgetary resource constraints and the need for improving service delivery to meet the growing demands in urban area, the Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation has been sensitizing the State Governments and Union Territories through workshops and seminars on the need for undertaking urban sector reforms. The guidelines are advisory in nature. The decision to enter into participation with private sector is that of the State Government and Government of India only plays the role of a facilitator.

(c) In case of privatisation of drinking water in a city, it is envisaged that the service delivery of water supply would improve considerably both in terms of quantity/number of hours of water supply and quality.. Service delivery to vulnerable sections would also improve. Consequently, urban dwellers would have to pay realistic tariffs to cover the cost of services delivered. Establishing an independent regulator, viable and affordable tariffs and ensuring access of water supply to the vulnerable sections would have to be ensured by the States, for which they are being sensitized.

Janani Suraksha Yojana

*108. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in order to tackle the problem of maternal mortality Government have started a new programme called "Janani Suraksha Yojana";

(b) if so, its aims and objectives; and

(c) the action Government propose to take if a pregnant woman does not register with a Primary Health Centre?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) There is a proposal to introduce a centrally sponsored scheme in the name of Janani Suraksha Yojana. The scheme shall not only integrate the existing National Maternity Benefit Scheme and other ongoing material health schemes, but will also introduce new initiatives. The scheme primarily aims at improving institutional deliveries and nutrition of lactating mothers belonging to families Below Poverty Line (BPL) so as to reduce maternal, neo-natal and infant mortality.

Pregnant women will be encouraged to register themselves with the health workers at the sub centres or at primary health centres for availing of at least three antenatal checkups, tetanus toxide injection, Iron & folic acid intake for 100 days and counseling on nutrition and other related issues. It is envisaged that this will help in early identification of any complications of pregnancy and timely referral. The disbursement of benefit will, however, be linked to the delivery of the child at a health centre. The Scheme is incentive based to attract expectant mothers for institutional delivery. There is no disincentive for those who do not register.

Hostels for SC/ST Students

†*109. SHRI ABHAY KANT PRASAD: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of hostels constructed so far for ST boys and girls in various States under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes;

(b) the number of ST boys and girls benefited as a result thereof;

(c) whether Government have received complaints to the effect that hostels constructed for ST boys and girls are not being paid adequate attention about their upkeep; and

(d) if so, what are the remedial measures taken or proposed to be taken by Government to effect an improvement in the situation?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) Number of Hostels constructed for ST Boys and Girls from 1992-93 till date are as under:—

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.